



stand up for education

The Coalition Government's policies threaten the standard of education in all our schools and colleges. We are asking the Government to:

1 Ensure every classroom has a qualified teacher

Academies and free schools are now allowed to employ unqualified teachers. This is a big threat to standards of education.

2 Allow councils to open new schools where they are needed

There is a huge pupil place shortage in some areas but councils are not allowed to open new schools. Many councils are driven to putting portacabins on school playgrounds to cope. The Government only allows new "free" schools to open and these are often in areas where there is already sufficient provision.

3 Make sure changes to the curriculum and exams are positive and planned

Rushed changes are stressful for children as well as their teachers. The Government should start listening to what teachers and education experts say. It should work with

them to develop an exciting and inspiring curriculum that equips children for the modern world.

4 Ensure there are enough new teachers – stop picking fights with the ones we’ve got

Morale under Michael Gove was plummeting. The current system for training teachers is under-recruiting. Thousands of good teachers are leaving the profession as a result of government reforms to education.

As a consequence we will most certainly be facing teacher shortages. This is clearly bad for education.

5 Get our schools working together and fund them properly

The evidence shows that schools working together is best for all children. Financial scandals at free schools show the dangers of privatisation. On top of this fragmentation, school sixth forms and sixth form colleges are facing 20% cuts. Sixth form colleges are being cut by £100 million a year, yet Michael Gove was happy to give Lord Harris £45 million to open one unnecessary 6th form free school in central London.

Please support teachers and education

Our children, young people and school communities need your help.

- Lobby your MP locally about education issues. Find your MP at findyourmp.parliament.uk
- Send a letter to your local paper supporting your schools and teachers
- Support our campaign www.teachers.org.uk/parents

Message to parents about strike action

Teachers only ever take strike action as a last resort.

We deeply regret disruption to pupils and parents.

We are in dispute with the Government about pay, pensions and workload.

The massive increase in teachers' workload since 2010 is not time spent on preparing exciting lessons for your children, but on form-filling.

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